

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6699

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14718

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO: ARRANGEMENTS FOR 19TH COUNCIL MEETING

REF: STATE 199488

1. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL, EMBASSY PAST WEEKEND AIRPOUCHED TO RICHARD NETHERCUT, EA/RA, UNDER REGISTRIES 608967 THRU 608969, COPIES OF FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WHICH WILL BE AID IN PREPARATION OF TALKING PAPERS FOR HEAD OF US DELEGATION: A) SECGEN'S CLASSIFIED REPORT (SEPTEMBER 1974), B) SCM/74/AG (PROVISIONAL AGENDA), C) PWG/74/ DRAFTS-25,29 AND 30 (REVISED).

2. RE SCM/74/AG (PROVISIONAL AGENDA), FOLLOWING COMMENTS SUBMITTED:

I. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: NEW ZEALAND WILL NOMINATE AND AUSTRALIA SECOND US TAKING THE CHAIR.

II. REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN: SUGGEST THAT US CHAIRMAN WELCOME DELEGATIONS AND SECGEN TO NEW YORK, POINTING UP THAT MEETING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED MILESTONE AS MANILA PACT SIGNED TWENTY YEARS AGO.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: ROUTINE.

IV. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS AFFECTING TREATY AREA: US WILL INTRODUCE AND SPEAK TO THIS ITEM FIRST. IN PAST THIS HAS BEEN SUMMARY OF MAJOR EVENTS OCCURRING IN SEA SINCE LAST MEETING WITH SOME FORECAST INTO THE NEAR FUTURE. THAIS WILL BE MOST INTERESTED IN HEARING HOW US VIEWS PRESENT SITUATIONS IN KHMER REPUBLIC, LAOS AND VIETNAM AND FORESEES FUTURE THERE. THEY WOULD ALSO BE KEENLY INTERESTED IN HEARING OUR ASSESSMENT AS TO FUTURE POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY HANOI REGIME.

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V. CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION OF SECGEN'S CLASSIFIED REPORT AND

COUNCIL REPS' REPORT: SECGEN WILL INTRODUCE AND SPEAK ON THIS ITEM FIRST. (US WILL SPEAK LAST RE THIS ITEM). IN PREPARING TEXT OF TALK BY US HEAD OF DELEGATION, SECGEN'S CLASSIFIED REPORT AND PWG/74/DRAFT-25(REVISED) ARE KEY DOCUMENTS TO ADDRESS. WITH RESPECT TO FORMER, SUGGEST THAT FOCUS BE PLACED ON SEATO ASSISTANCE TO SOCIAL/ECONOMIC PROJECTS DESCRIBED ON PAGES 17-21 UNDER HEADING "OFFICE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS". BOTH THAIS AND FILIPINOS, AS WELL AS SECGEN, WOULD WELCOME US ENDORSEMENT OF SUCH PROJECT AID WHICH, THOUGH RELATIVELY SMALL IN AMOUNT, DOES HAVE A DIRECT EFFECT ON PEOPLES IN SELECTED AREAS OF THE REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES. DRAWING UPON SECGEN'S REPORT AS WELL AS PWG/74/DRAFT-25(REVISED), SECGEN SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR EFFECTING CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATION PURSUANT TO THE DECISIONS OF LAST YEAR'S MEETING, RESULTING IN A STREAMLINED ORGANIZATION BETTER GEARED TO PROVIDE CSI ADVICE AND PROJECT ASSISTANCE.

VI. DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS: IT IS EXPECTED THAT COUNCIL WILL APPROVE THESE WHICH ARE FOUND IN PWG/74/DRAFT-29(REVISED). THE ONLY DIRECTIVES PROPOSED ARE FOUND IN PARAS (F) AND (H). RATIONALE BEHIND (H) IS UNHAPPINESS OF SOME MEMBERS WITH BUDGET CONTRIBUTION FORMULA WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. HOWEVER, IN ALL PROBABILITY SAME FORMULA WILL CARRY OVER FOR SUCCEEDING YEARS UNLESS SOME

MEMBER VOLUNTEERS TO INCREASE ITS ANTE WHICH IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY. RE PARA 5 REFTEL, NOT REALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED HERE AT THIS LATE DATE BEFORE MEETING WITH REGARD TO ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP. WHILE WE INTEND TO RAISE MATTER AT FINAL COUNCIL REPS MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, WE THINK BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR COUNCIL REPS TO NEGOTIATE THIS SUBJECT AFTER COUNCIL MEETING AS IS CALLED FOR IN PARA C.3.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS: AS OF NOW, THIS WILL BE LIMITED TO COUNCIL'S APPROVING PRESS STATEMENT (CONTENTS SENT REFTEL).

3. WHILE PWG DRAFTS REFERRED TO ABOVE STILL REQUIRE COUNCIL REPS APPROVAL AT SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING, WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES WILL BE MADE AT THAT TIME. IF SUCH DOES OCCUR, HOWEVER, EMBASSY WILL ADVISE IMMEDIATELY.
KINTNER

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